

Mastery Test in Understanding Details

Name _____ Date _____

You have now finished all of the ten units of *Understanding Details*. You have worked with ten different objectives. We want to see if you can use all of these skills in taking this test. When your test is scored, you will be able to see how much you have learned from the lessons.

Directions: Read each selection very carefully and answer the questions that follow it. You can check your progress by looking at the standards that follow the last question.

I. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MUSKRAT?

Have you ever seen a muskrat? Muskrats live in many different parts of the United States where there are swamps and rivers, and they belong to the same animal family as the beaver and rat. Muskrats generally build a nest or home under the surface of the water. They use twigs and branches of grass for making the walls of the home soft and comfortable. They are very fast swimmers and generally get away from enemies by swimming. These animals feed on sweet blades of grass, seeds, and the small babies of other animals. The mother muskrat may have over two dozen babies in a single year. In earlier times, muskrat skins were valuable since they were used for expensive coats.

1. Muskrats usually live in _____ and _____.
2. The _____ and _____ belong to the same animal family as the muskrat.
3. The _____ was once a valuable part of the muskrat.
4. The mother muskrat may have more than _____ babies a year.
5. The muskrat's home is located where? _____

II. THE AMAZING OLIVE

(1) Nearly all people have eaten olives at one time or another. (2) The olive tree grows in many warm climates of the world like those in Italy and Spain. (3) The tree also grows in the southern part of California. (4) Olives, whether ripe or not, are a delicious and healthful food. (5) The oil of the olive is used for making salad dressings and for cooking various foods. (6) Olives are used as a part of many garden salads. (7) Olive trees sometimes grow as tall as forty feet. (8) Some trees live for many years.

Directions: Which sentences in the story support this main idea: Olives are a delicious and useful food? Write down the numbers here: _____

III.

ARE YOU WORTH YOUR SALT?

Read the following five paragraphs. Write down a sentence which tells the main idea of each paragraph. Check your answers in the answer key.

1. Salt is a very useful chemical. It is used on food that we eat, and it is also used to preserve certain foods such as meat and pickles. Sometimes it is placed on roads and sidewalks to melt ice in the winter. It is also fed to animals such as horses and cows since they do not get enough salt in their regular food.
2. Having too much or too little salt in your body can be harmful to you; it may raise or lower your blood pressure. Sometimes people who have high blood pressure are put on low-salt or salt-free diets. Too little salt may cause you to faint, or, in very hot weather, to suffer heat stroke and become very ill. Workers who labor in very hot places have to take salt pills to get enough salt.
3. Salt is a chemical and is called sodium chloride. It is composed of two chemical elements, sodium and chlorine. Salt can be dissolved in water and, if the water evaporates, salt crystals will result. Some of the crystals can be seen only through a magnifying glass.
4. Millions of tons of salt are mined in the United States each year. One of the principal mines is located at Hutchinson, Kansas. The salt from American mines is sold all over the world.
5. The salt we use on our tables for potatoes and other foods is obtained by the brine process. Large holes are drilled in the earth and water is forced into the holes and mixed with salt. It is brought to the surface, and the water is allowed to evaporate. What remains is table salt.

IV.

READ THE LATEST NEWS

Look at the following sentences which tell the history of the daily newspaper. Each sentence is numbered. Following the selection are five questions. On the blank to the left of each question, place the number of the sentence that contains the answer to that particular question.

(1) Newspapers have a long history in the United States. (2) In addition to world and local news, the papers print advertisements, financial news, sports news, entertainment news, comic strips, and much more. (3) The four major divisions of a newspaper company are business, subscriptions, printing, and editorial. (4) The presses which print modern papers can print thousands of copies every hour. (5) There are over 2,000 newspapers in this country that are read by millions of people every day. (6) However, many big cities have only one daily newspaper. (7) Some of the leading newspapers today are the *New York Daily News*, the *Kansas City Times*, the *Omaha World-Herald*, and the *Denver Post*.

- _____ 1. How many papers can a modern press print each hour?
- _____ 2. What are some of the regular features of a newspaper?
- _____ 3. How many major divisions does a newspaper company have?
- _____ 4. What are the names of some of the country's leading newspapers?
- _____ 5. How many newspapers are there in this country?

V.

THE INTERESTING JOURNEY OF NATURAL GAS

Here is an interesting story about how natural gas reaches your home or apartment to keep you warm or to cook your food. Following the story is a list of steps. Rearrange them so they are in the correct order.

The natural gas that comes to your home was probably formed millions of years ago. During that time there were many kinds of plants and trees. As this vegetation was covered over by mud, the plants rotted and gas was formed in pockets under the earth. Today, scientists have found a way to drill deep holes in the ground in order to let the gas escape. Pipes are placed in the holes and the gas is transferred to storage tanks. From the storage tanks the gas is sent in pipes over long distances for use by many people. When the gas reaches a given city, it is then pumped through small pipes to individual homes and apartments. The gas that keeps you warm has covered a long distance.

1. Pipes are placed in deep holes.
2. Deep holes are drilled in the ground.
3. The gas goes through small pipes to your home or apartment.
4. The gas is transferred to storage tanks.
5. Gas was probably formed from decaying plants and trees.

HOW DID YOU DO?

There is a total of 25 points on this test. Section I has 7 points; Section II has 3 points; Section III has 5 points; Section IV has 5 points; and Section V has five points. Look for your score in the table below.

Number right

23—25	Excellent
21—22	Good
17—20	Fair
0—16	Unsatisfactory